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DIARY OF A JOURNEY THROUGH

UPPER CANADA

AND SOME OF THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

1819

JOHN GOLDIE

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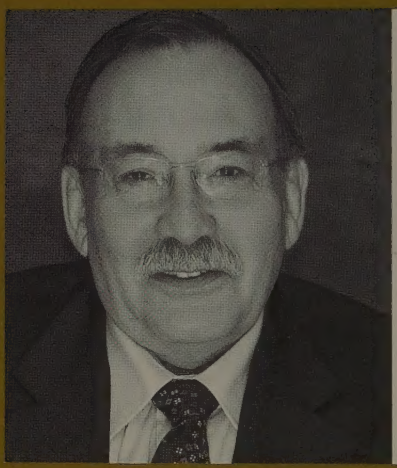

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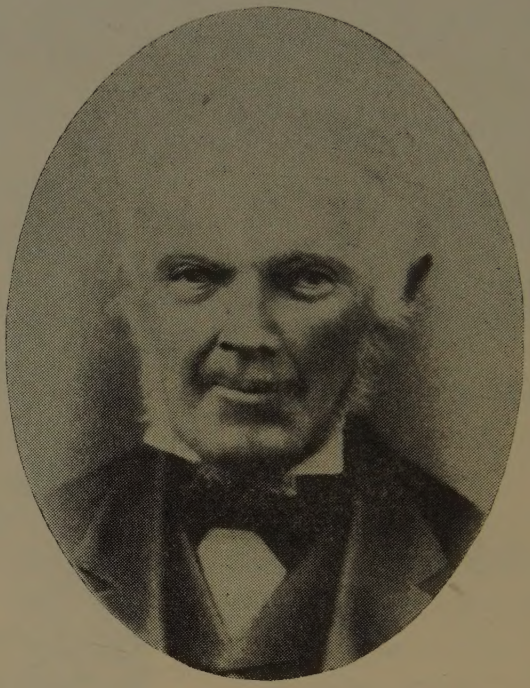
DIARY OF A JOURNEY THROUGH UPPER CANADA



John Goldie

DIARY OF A JOURNEY THROUGH

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JOHN GOLDIE

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
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A TRIBUTE

This edition of the Goldie Diary would not be complete without a tribute paid by the Goldie family to Mr. Willman Spawn of Philadelphia. Mr. Spawn came occasionally to the Toronto Public Library as a consultant on paper restoring. Among the manuscripts in the Baldwin Room on which he was working he found and read my Grandfather's diary which proved exciting to this enthusiastic botanist. He also examined a printed version authorized in the nineties by Roswell Goldie of Guelph. Because the manuscript was so fragile and difficult to read our family had never examined it and took for granted that the manuscript and booklet were identical. Mr. Spawn discovered they were not.

When he was told that a granddaughter of John Goldie was a member of the Library Board he was inspired with the idea of persuading her to publish the original text of the Diary in centennial year. It was he who did all the work of preparation for publication and who wrote the foreword at my request. The descendents of John Goldie owe Willman Spawn a deep debt of gratitude.

Mrs. Theresa Goldie Falkner

FOREWORD

JOHN GOLDIE was one of the company of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century naturalists whose journals and diaries bring pleasure to us today. Trained to minute observation, yet compelled by Nature to take the long view and the slow pace, they left vivid narratives filled with detailed sketches of places and people. One reason why these journals never cease to fascinate us is that they afford us a glimpse of the wilderness world we will never know; another is the contrast between the acutely observed detail and the limitless landscape.

John Goldie's diary of his North American journey, from Montreal around Lake Ontario and on to Pittsburgh, is one of these wonderful narratives. It has never been published as it was written; the only previous edition, privately printed in 1897, omitted or toned down the political and social commentary which is of the greatest interest to today's reader. The present edition is published by the kindness of Goldie descendants from his diary now preserved at the Toronto Public Library. The botanical notes, kept separately from the diary, are believed to have been lost. Their lack will distress the botanist, but every reader will find plenty of interest in Goldie's day-to-day narrative, spiced with comments.

John Goldie was a Scot, born on the 21st of March, 1793, in the parish of Kirkoswald in Ayrshire. Having served his apprenticeship as a gardener and displayed an interest in the collecting and classifying of plants, he entered the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, then under the direction of William J. (afterward Sir William) Hooker, where he received a thorough scientific training in botany. In addition he studied languages at the University, Latin and Greek of course, with some Hebrew and modern languages as well.

His association with James Smith of Monkwood Grove, a well-known horticulturist, led to his marriage to Smith's daughter Margaret on the 18th of June, 1815. On that same day, Goldie travelled to Edinburgh

to take an examination for the post of botanist to a government expedition being sent to explore the Congo basin. Though he passed the examination and was preparing to set out with the expedition, at the last moment he was superseded by another man, presumably through political pressure. The loss of this post proved fortunate for Goldie, however, for the botanist and many members of the expedition perished as victims of the African climate.

In 1817, at the age of twenty-four, Goldie set out in a different direction. The history of the next two years he recounted in a paper communicated by his friend and preceptor, Dr. Hooker, to the Edinburgh Philosophical Society, published in its *Journal* in 1822. ". . . Having had for many years a great desire to visit North America, chiefly with a view to examine and collect some of its vegetable productions, I contrived, in 1817, to obtain as much money as would just pay my passage there, leaving, when this was done, but a very small surplus.

"In the month of June I sailed from Leith, and landing at Halifax, remained for some days botanizing in the neighbourhood . . . where I met with several plants which were interesting to me, especially a yellow flowered variety of *Sarracenia purpurea*, which I have never since seen elsewhere. From hence I went to Quebec, carrying with me all the roots and specimens that I had obtained, which, together with the produce of two weeks' researches in the neighborhood of Quebec, I put on board a vessel which was bound for Greenock, but never heard of them afterwards. Hence I proceeded to Montreal, where, meeting with Mr. [Frederick] Pursh, author of the North American Flora, he advised me to turn my course towards the north-west country in the following spring, and promised to procure me permission to accompany the traders leaving Montreal. I travelled on foot to Albany, and then proceeded by water to New York. I remained but a short time in this last place, for I explored the eastern part of New Jersey—a country which, though barren and thinly inhabited, yet presents many rarities to the botanist, and gave me more gratification than any part of America that I have seen. At a place called Quaker's Bridge I gathered some most interesting plants, and having accumulated as large a load as my back would carry, I took my journey to Philadelphia, where I staid but a very short time; for knowing that a

ship was about to sail from New York to Scotland, I hastened to return thither; and having again entrusted my treasures to the deep, I had again, as the first time, the disappointment of never obtaining any intelligence whatever of them.

"My finances being now extremly low, and winter having commenced, I hardly knew what to do; but after some delay, went up to the Mohawk River, where I found employment during that season as a schoolmaster. I quitted this place in April 1818, and proceeded to Montreal, expecting to be ready to depart on my journey towards the north-west country. I was disappointed in finding that Mr. Pursh had left Montreal for Quebec, and that even if present, his interest would scarcely have been sufficiently strong to have obtained for me the assistance and protection which I desired. My only alternative was now the spade, at which I worked all summer, excepting only two days in each week, which I devoted to botanizing, and went also a little way up the Otowa [sic] or Grand River, the only excursion of any length which I accomplished. In the autumn I shipped my collection of plants, and in two months had the mortification to learn that the vessel was totally wrecked in the St. Lawrence. Thus did I lose the fruit of two years' labour. During the next winter I did little, except employing myself, with such small skill as I was able, in designing some flower pieces, for which I got a trifle. Early in the following spring I commenced labour again, and by the beginning of June had amassed about 50 dollars, which, with as much more that I borrowed from a friend, formed my stock of money for the next summer's tour. I started in the beginning of June from Montreal, and passing through Kingston, went to New York [i.e., Toronto] to which, after an excursion to Lake Simcoe, I returned; then visited the Falls of Niagara and Fort Erie, and crossed over to the United States. Keeping along the eastern side of Lake Erie for ninety miles, I afterwards took a direct course to Pittsburgh on the Ohio, which, owing to the advanced state of the season, was the most distant point to which I could attain. On my return I kept along the side of the Alleghany river to Point Ollean, in the State of New York, then visited the salt-works of Onondago and Sackett's Harbour on Lake Ontario, whence, proceeding to Kingston, I packed up my whole collection, with which I returned to Montreal, and, embarking in a vessel which was bound for Greenock, got safely home;

the plants which I carried with myself being the whole that I saved out of the produce of nearly three years spent in botanical researches.

"In spite of the ill fortune which has hitherto attended my endeavours, I have still so great a desire to bring American plants and seeds to this country, that I purpose, in the ensuing spring, if my pecuniary circumstances will permit me, to make another excursion to that country, for the purpose of exploring the forests which lie towards the west."

Though he was only thirty years old when his account was published, and two-thirds of his life yet lay before him, Goldie never did fulfill his dream of "exploring the forests . . . towards the west." His next journey was to take him in the opposite direction. In 1824, he was appointed to gather and transport a collection of plants, trees and shrubs to the newly organized Botanical Gardens at St. Petersburgh. On his return to Scotland he established a nursery business at his old home in Ayrshire, but the lure of strange places proved too strong. In 1830 he set out again for Russia, where he spent some months (but not so long as he had hoped to do) botanizing and collecting plants to introduce into Scotland.

One last journey remained for John Goldie. In 1844, he and his entire household joined the great stream of emigration to North America. With the desire of bettering his life and that of his children, Goldie settled in Ontario, of which he had formed so favorable an opinion during his journeying in 1819. At Ayr, in the country of Waterloo, John Goldie spent the remainder of his life surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, dying at last in 1886, in his ninety-fourth year.

Today a ribbon of concrete rings Lake Ontario, where John Goldie walked and botanized in the summer months of 1819. Housing developments, industrial parks, shopping centers and all the manifestations of urban sprawl make it almost impossible to imagine the landscape as Goldie saw it. How fortunate, therefore, for us that Goldie wrote down his impressions of the country he travelled a century and a half ago, leaving us the historical record and a precious reminder of a land and a time we have left behind.

Willman Spawn
1529 Summer Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

DIARY OF A JOURNEY THROUGH UPPER CANADA

DIARY FOR THE YEAR 1819

N JUNE 4th 1819 I commenced my long talked of journey, to examine the natural but more particularly the Botanical productions of Upper Canada, & of the States in the vicinity of the Lakes — In the course of my journey I shall give the state of the weather, and the highest at which I happen to observe the thermometer. To day it thundered toward the southward, ther. 76. This night I stopped at St. Anns[1], at the upper end of the Island of Montreal. And in the forenoon of the 5th reached the Grand river[2], which is 5 or 6 hundred yds wide at this place, and proceeding along the bank of the St. Lawrence I came to a small village called Coteau de Lac — there is a fort here which was occupied during the late American War and which at present contains a few Soldiers — weather fair, ther. 86.

On the 6th I left the road which goes along side the River, and took the more inland one which passes through Glengary — The land along this road pretty thickly settled, and all by French until you come within 4 or 5 miles of the Upper Prov. which is a continued swampy woods, and the Lower Province, and enterd in the County of Glengary of which the highlanders boast so much — It appears rather singular how much land differs on the boundaries of the Provinces — From the Coteau de Lac all along the small river de L'Isle the surface is generally level, and free from stones: But as soon as you cross the small rivulet which on

this side is the boundary of Glengary, the whole ground is covered with stones, and is considerably uneven. To day the weather was very hot, in the evening thunder to the West ther. 92 sunset 78 mosquitoes in myriads.

7th. I passed through the West of Glengary and came into Cornwall which has all the same appearance of Glengary as to the land — but there is a considerable difference in the People — the Inhabitants of Glen. retain all the appearance habits & customs of the highlanders of Scotland.

8th. I travelled all day along the St. L. which has a fine appearance & is thickly interspersed with Islands — the soil along the River is sandy but seems to produce good crops when properly managed — Grain of all sorts is a great deal more advanced at present in growth here than any place I have passed through — This day I passed that bloody spot, which will long be known in the annals of history Chrystlers Farm[3], where a handful of the British overcame a large army of the Americans, and prevented them from making an attack upon Montreal.

9th. I arrived early in the forenoon at Prescot which is but a small village but contains some respectable buildings. A little way before you enter the vill. there is a small battery, formed by inclosing a considerable extent of grove with the adjacent earth, collected into a high ridge — In the inside are contained Barracks for the Soldiers &c. Opposite to Prescot on the south side of the St. Lawrence lies the Town of Ogdensburgh, which is a pretty handsome looking village, and of considerable extent. After leaving Prescot I travelled alongside the river as far as Brockville 12 miles from Prescot where I remaind for the night — I was informed that within a very few years past Brockville consisted of only 2 or 3 houses, but now there are at least a dozen houses, which,

either in quality or elegance may compare with any in Upper Canada — besides a great many others of inferior quality. This morning was pleasant, but towards miday the wind rose rather high and from the dry state of the roads made travelling rather disagreeable. Weather, morning clear, cloudy in the afternoon, ther. 77 —

10th. I remained at Brockville, examining the vegetable productions in the vicinity — to day when in the woods a little distance from the town I saw the spot where the remains of a man was found this spring after the snow went off — He was supposed to have been murderd in the fall — The place where he was found was within 30 or 40 yards of a public road; he was laid behind an old tree which had fallen, and considerable pains had been taken to cover him over with branches & leaves. Part of clothes still remain in the snow where he was lying — Weather ther. 69.

11th. In the morning I set out on my way to Kingston. The road lies along the river for a few miles, and then goes more inland, so that you do not see the St. L. until that you arrive at Gananoque 33 miles from Brockville — The face of the country now assumes a more uneven and barren aspect — Six miles from Brockv. you cross a creek, with very steep banks and whose course appears as if it had been cut out of the solid rock. For many miles afterwards, a house is only to be seen in 3 or 4 miles, the land being so rocky that it is incapable of cultivation — Even in many places where it is settled I should think that it is scarcely worth the labour that has been bestowed upon it — As I approached Gananoque I found the country very wild, & not a house in 4 or 5 miles. The forepart of this day was very pleasant, but towards evening the sky threatened rain. However it kept off with the exception of a small shower

until after sunset, when just as I came to the door of the Inn where I stopped this night, it rained for some time remarkably heavy quite in the American stile. ther. 80

On the 12th I left the village of Gananoque which contains only a few buildings & again entered the woods, out of which I did not get until my arrival at Kingston a distance of 24 miles. The country all the way being nothing but rocks and very thinly settled. Last night and to day I have been exceedingly tormented by mosquitoes, and another small black fly, which is still worse — Wherever they pierce the skin the blood flows very copiously, so that my face and neck was all over besmeared with blood, and afterwards had the appearance of a person infected with the small pox — Weather to day pleasant, fair, ther. 82

13th. I remained in Kingston. To day very pleasant, fair, ther. 70 — frost at night

14th. Having arranged my affairs, I left Kingston about 10 o clock & proceeded by the front road for York[4]. This road goes at some distance from the Lake for about 7 miles, and afterwards lies close alongside the Lake — the shore of Ontario is in most places low and quite covered with rocks — In a few places it is of considerable height & perpendicular. As far as the Bay of Quinte you scarcely see any appearance of a Lake of any extent, but only of a pretty large river: on account of its being so filled with Islands. Some of the Islands are of a large size and have a few settlements on them: others are completely covered with wood & in a state of Nature. I consider it as a very pleasant situation all along the Lake, and it is thickly settled, but still the land is very rocky, although now & then you may see a small spot which appears to be very good. To day I have met with a number of interesting plants, some of which are new to me. I lodged

at night in Ernest Town[5], a small village with a few respectable buildings, & an old unshapely church. It is 25 m. from Kingston. Weather very pleasant & fair — Ther. in the afternoon 84

15th. Having travelled about 7 miles I was stopped a little while by rain but it soon cleared up — & I crossed over to the Bay of Quinte and walked along the south side of it until I came to Mr Fishers, where I remained for some time. Ther. 72 I did not leave this untill the 21 —

16th fair. Ther. 84

17th. — Thunder to the North in the afternoon, which continued most of the night, with very vivid lightning. Ther. 84

18th morning fair, thunder to West through the day — ther. 90

19th. I intended to have set out but the wind was so high that I could not get across the Bay. fair, ther. 78 —

20th. Being Sunday I remained here as I was in good Quarters. fair — Ther. 78 —

21st. After breakfast I commenced my Journey for York. After going about 5 miles, along side the Bay I crossed it, and went for a number of miles through a pretty thickly settled country — In the afternoon I came again upon the south side of the Bay of Quinte which is in a circular form, so that the head of it comes almost in contact with the Lake — I got now completely into the Bush — the first house that I came to, being 7 or 8 miles distant from the last. Although that the sun was yet considerably high, I thought it adviseable to stop here for the night, being informed that the next house was 6 miles distant. There appears to be very few travellers upon this road, although I am told that it is the most public of any from Kingston to York. To day I

have met with a number of plants which I have not before seen, some of them very interesting — Crops appear good, but there is great want of rain in this part of the country. Day fair, ther. 84. this night I heard for the first time, the well known Whip Poor Will —

22nd. The house where I lodged last night being closely surrounded with woods, and full of chinks & crevices admitted the mosquitoes so plentifully that I could scarcely get any sleep which circumstances caused me to stir betimes this morning — The weather was fair, but a little cold, at an hour after sunrise the Ther. was 51° — As I mentioned yesterday I did not see many houses this morning untill that I travelled 10 miles, where I came again to the Bay of Quinte, along which I walked until at last I came to its head, which was 8 miles farther. Where the Bay terminates it is only about a mile distant from the Lake. A canal could very easily unite the two, if there was as much trade as would pay interest for [?] expences of cutting it — The land along the Bay appeared to have been settled for a considerable time, in some places the soil is good, in others it is very indifferent. There are a few good looking Orchard here, and some lately planted; but as none of the trees are grafted or budded, they are of considerably less value — Leaving the Carrying Place[6], which is the name of this isthmus, the road goes at some distance from the Lake through woods but thinly settled, and which in many places exhibit marks of being but very lately under cultivation — From the Carrying Place till where I stopped for the night I observed nothing remarkable except that I met with more streams of pure water in the evening than I remember to have seen in all the places I have been in, in America. I was so pleased to find good water, that it was with some reluctance that I

passed any of them without drinking — The day was good, some showers went about to the south & west. Ther. 80

23rd. I started pretty early, and after travelling until about midday I passed a Town called Hamilton[7], situated close to the Lake, it contains but a few Houses, some of which are very good. Before I had gone 2 miles further a thunder storm arose, which continued, for a considerable time and obliged me to stop — There had been no rain here for a considerable time before, and the roads were become remarkably dry & dusty, which with the very great heat, came to be very severe upon the feet, so that although the rain made the road a little muddy, it was more pleasant travelling. At some distance afterwards I crossed Smiths' Creek where there are a few buildings. After leaving the Creek, you get into a sandy barren Wood, without any houses for some miles — I only travelled six miles further to night, by which time the sun was setting — To day the country through which I passed was much the same as formerly, some good, and some very indifferent. Rye seems to be the grain that grows best here — There appears to be very little attention paid to the cultivation of the Potatoe in this part of the country. In the course of a days travel you will not see an acre of them. The People are generally busy in hoeing their corn, where I have been for some days past. This day was fair, except the shower mentioned before, and another a little afterward, which passed to the South. Ther. 72

24th. I arose with the sun, and after going 2 miles, I got into what are called the 9 mile woods — A short time ago there was not a house all this distance, but lately there have been three or four log ones built — The cause of there being so few settlers here is not as in many instances, from the

barrenness of the soil, which in these woods is very good, but the Proprietors of this have gotten too much land, and will neither clear it themselves, nor sell it to them who would do it — As a law has been lately passed, obliging every person to keep the road in repair opposite his property it is probable that this will induce them to make some better use of this and many other pieces of land than they have hitherto done — The morning being calm, the mosquitoes were extremely numerous, and almost insufferable — After leaving the Wood there are a few miles, cleared along the road after which you come into the five mile woods, which are still unsettled — These places are likely to retain their original appelations however unappropriate they may be in a short period — I travelled only a few miles further to night and lodged exactly 30 miles from York — The land looks to be considerably better here, than lower down — and if properly cultivated, and manured, would produce luxuriant crops — for three days past I have seen nothing interesting to the Botanist, which circumstance is not calculated to elevate the spirits, and make a person forget the fatigues of travelling — This day was fair, ther. 80.

25th. As I did not intend to go into York to night, I travelled the day but slowly, sometimes in woods and sometimes in cleared land — Before mid-day I passed a creek, which lay very low, so that the road is very steep on each side — All the declivity on the East side was completely covered with the Penstemon pubescens[8], such a quantity of which I never expected to see in one place — For a number of miles to day I passed through barren sandy Pine Woods, which it is probable will never be cleared — In the morning I met a number of Indians and squaws: One of the men was very drunk. He told me that he was crazy with taking too

much Bitters this morning. One of them had no clothing upon him, except a piece of cloth thrown over his shoulders and a belt round his waist to which was fastened a small piece of cloth, about a foot in length and breadth, which hung before him — I stopped for the night 6 miles from York there being no other Inn upon this road nearer to it. As I was only a short distance from the Lake, I went to it, but found the shore at least 200 ft high and very abrupt, in some places almost perpendicular, so that it was with considerable difficulty that I could approach the water — The bank[9] is almost entirely composed of sand, which approaches to clay after a considerable depth — I expected to have found a number of plants here but was disappointed; Having bathed in the Lake, I returned to my lodging — this day was very pleasant, there being a considerable breeze of wind, which both kept a person cool, and kept off those tormentors, the Mosquitoes. ther. 76

On the 26th I went on for York — As soon as I left the Tavern where I lodged, I entered into what in this part of the Country the People call a Pine Plain, but what in some of the States would be denominated a Pine Barren which is a very appropriate name for such kind of land — I found the vegetable productions here in many instances similar to what they are in New Jersey — The woods continue until you come within less than three miles of York where the land is generally cleared although it does not appear to be any thing superior in quality. I came into York about ten o clock and intended to have remained at least one day in it, but I was not long here untill I changed my mind and left it for Lake Simcoe — When at Kingston, I left the greater part of my specimen paper together with all my other articles which I did not immediately need, to be sent to York by the

Steam Boat, which only sails between these two places 3 times a month. It happened that they had been put on board a Schooner, addressed to the care of a Store Keeper, but he not observing any mention of them in the bill of lading which he received with some Articles of his own, made no enquiry about them and they were not delivered — When I called at the Store & could find no account of my things I did not feel easy, as I had my book that I carried along with me quite full of specimens and my Hat was as full of Insects so that I could do nothing more until I had the present cargo put past — Of the appearance of York I shall say nothing until a future period — I left it in the afternoon, and travelled 8 miles due north on the road to Simcoe — This day was very hot, fair — Ther. 86 —

I forgot to mention above that just as I was enquiring for my Knapsack the Schooner which brought it from Kingston returned from Niagara, so I went on board and found it — If I had not luckily been there just at this precise time it would have been carried back to Kingston, which would have been an unfortunate circumstance for me —

27th. It was about six this morning when I started, and in a little time it was so hot that travelling became very oppressive — At 9 A M the Ther. stood 84 — The roads were now dusty, so that when any wheeled carriage passed, I was involved in a cloud of dust, which was extremely disagreeable. This is the best road that I have seen in Upper Canada and since I left York, there have been more waggons travelling the road than all those that I have seen since I left Montreal[10] — Having gone on slowly I arrived in the evening at what is called the upper Landing Place[11]; which is about 9 miles by water from L. Simcoe — I stopped at the farthest house upon this road, and have bespoken a

week's lodging here, as I expect that it is a spot very interesting for the Botanist — Day fair, ther. 91.

28th. Day fair and extremely hot, at 9 A M. the ther. stood 90°. About mid-day there was a thunder storm, which however mostly passed to Southward, ther. 93 —

29th. Rain in the morning, in the afternoon it cleared up, but towards evening became again cloudy with rain. ther. 77 — As the House at which I stop is situated in the midst of woods and marshes, the Mosquitoes have been exceedingly troublesome these two days past — It is almost impossible to sleep during the night, for they are quite as plentiful, and every way as mischievous as during the day —

30th. Rained very heavy all day. ther. 70

July 1st. Rained for the greater part of the day — ther. 64 —

2d. Rained during the forenoon, cloudy in the afternoon. ther. 64

3rd. Cloudy in the morning, but cleared up in the afternoon — This evening A Company of the 70th Regiment from Drummonds Island, in Lake Huron, arrived here — They have been up the country 2 years, and have been exchanged for 2 companies of the 68th. ther. 78

4th was fair and pleasant. This evening I saw a Comet to the N W. about an hour after sun set. Its tail could be seen very distinctly, and was of considerable length — The People here are firm in the belief that it prognosticates an immediate war with the United States, as one appeared before the late War — All around this part of the country you hear of Wars & rumours of Wars, for what purpose some People invent and publish such stories I cannot imagine — except it be to make their Neighbours believe that they are possessed of more foresight, and a greater

share of Sagacity than others — All such reports appear to be totally destitute of any foundation. ther. 73 —

This being the last day of my abode here I shall mention a few things more concerning this part of the Country — Lake Simcoe is between 30 & 40 miles long, and of considerable breadth, but I could not ascertain accurately how many miles it is — On the south side there is what is called a river, which although of no great breadth, yet has sufficient depth to allow Schooners to come to the Upper Landing Place, which is 9 miles from the Lake, & 36 from York. This River apparently is stagnant & the water has more the appearance of flowing in a retrograde motion from the Lake, than the contrary. After crossing the Lake, there is nine miles of a portage, and then there is water carriage all the way to Lake Huron — It is very probable that at no very distant period, this will become the most frequented of all the routes to the N W. In the present time there are no houses, nor Stores on the North side of Simcoe, at the portage; which makes it very troublesome; and also much of the goods are liable to be injured by the weather — Since the Steamboat has commenced to sail on L. Erie the cheapest and most expeditious mode of sending down the Furs from the Interior is by that route although that it is 400 miles longer than by Simcoe — There is nothing but one Schooner upon the Lake and which is sufficient for all the trade at present — Since I came here I have seen a number of rare plants & some of them are nondescripts — There are a species of Asclepias with orange flowers very handsome, a species of Euphorbium with white flowers[12], a Ranunculus, together with some others which were not in flower, that I had never seen before — If a Person could spend a season here, they might expect to meet with many plants not yet described —

5th. This morning was remarkably cold for this season of the year — I could not get away before ten A M. As the day was good I took it easy, and stopped 12 miles from York. Having travelled this road before I need say nothing concerning it now. fair, Ther. 80 —

On the morning of the 6th I came into York where I remained all this day — York is situated upon a bay formed by a narrow piece of Land which stretches out from the Eastern side of the Town, and almost incloses a small portion of the Lake, the outlet being to s w. The Harbour is not at all adapted for Shipping. The bulrushes grow some feet above water at near one hundred yards distance from land — There are two piers of wood which project a great way into the water where the Steamboat and the Schooners Load & unload — Upon the neck of land, nearly south of the City is a Lighthouse which is the only building there except a log house at its extremity[13] — York is very inferior in extent to Kingston, and also in my opinion in its situation. It can only be said, strictly speaking to possess one street for the cross ones scarcely yet deserve that name[14] — The Buildings are in general elegant — but are all, with the exception of two or three, of wood — There is only one Church in the City, which is Episcopalian[15]. As yet they have not a Presbyterian Church, but when they have sermons it must be in some building appropriated to some other purpose — the Street is without pavement, when I was here I saw them mending it, which was accomplished by first turning it completely up with a plough, as if to sow grain, and afterwards throwing the earth from the sides & heights upon the middle and into the hollows — Although such streets would not do in Britain, yet here they are even better than if they were paved — The ground is naturally

very dry and sandy; the summer is generally dry, and the number of carriages that travel the streets are comparatively few — When the Winter commences it is of no importance of what materials they are made — In that season Frost and snow make all roads alike. York is without any fortification and the Public Buildings were burnt in the late War by the Americans — About three miles above the Town are the Barracks for the Soldiers & the Governors House — I saw the 70th Regiment go on board the Steam Boat, Frontenac, for Kingston. This is the only steam boat that sails between York & Kingston. She makes only three trips a month, leaving Kingston upon the 1st, 11th & 21st of each month; after touching at York she sails to Niagara, and returns by the same route — This Boat is a great deal larger than any other that I have ever seen — There are also a few Schooners that trade between this & Kingston, Niagara, and the American side of the Lake — From York I could have gotten to Niagara in a few hours, and for a small sum, but I preferred travelling by land, although the distance is 90 miles, while that by water is only 30 — I was informed that the fog which arises over the Falls can be observed here in a clear and calm morning.

7th. In the morning there was a shower which detained me from setting out so early as I had intended — There being a Schooner lying here which was to sail to Niagara this afternoon, I considered it better to send all my spare Articles by her, which would only cost me 1/3 than to have a load to carry for 100 miles — Within two miles of York to the West there are a few very elegant buildings superior to most in Canada[16] — After leaving York 3 miles you come into a Sandy Pine Barren, which continues for five miles, and in which there is about two houses — I had not been long there

when I met with ample compensation for the fatigue of travelling by land — This was as good a Botanical Spot as any that ever I was in. I wish that there were more of the Pine barrens, even than what there are — Having had so much employment this day I was unable to proceed far on my journy — I believe I stopped about 15 miles above York. This day was calm and very sultry with occasional heavy clouds. Ther. 90.

8th. I never passed a more disagreeable night in America than the last one. Being sleepy I went to bed early but I was not long there when I would have been extremely glad to have been able to fall asleep — The Mosquitoes were the chief cause of disturbance although not altogether the only one — Where I have it in my power to choose now, I shall take particular care to inspect the state of the Tavern windows — so that whatever may be in the inside — that I may be free from external intruders. The country through which I passed to day was generally well settled & of considerable good quality, but all inclining to sand — I crossed three considerable creeks[17] this day which run very much below the level of the adjacent land — their Banks are both high and very steep, so that it must have been with a good deal of difficulty that a road has been made across them — The road is mostly composed of wood which forms a barrier to the earth that is cut from the Bank — After travelling about 28 miles I came alongside the west corner of Lake Ontario — Where the first object that struck me was what to me appeared to be a great body of smoke on the opposite side of the Lake, but you may guess my incredulous surprise & pleased astonishment, when I was informed that that was the Spray of the Great Falls — It appeared very distinctly and as at no great distance and in calm mornings & evenings

the sound is distinctly heard at this place, which is thirty miles distant in a direct line —

As you proceed along the west end of Ontario, you pass between it & what is properly called Burlington Bay; but its common appelation here is the Little Lake — It is 7 miles across in the widest place — and lies quite alongside the other Lake for 5 miles. The road passes along the beach which lies between the lakes, and is from 100 to 200 yds broad — The only connection between the Lake & the Bay is about 60 yds broad, and through which there was a current setting in to the Bay when I passed here — I went two miles from the Lake by which time the sun had sunk below the Western Forrests and I thought it best to halt for the night — Where I remained is called Stony creek[18] — and has three taverns within 100 yds — I was careful to survey them before entrance, and pitched upon one, which was dignified by the title of Hotel — This day was fair with occasional clouds. Ther. 90.

9th. This day take it "all in all" I consider as the hottest that ever I have felt. The morning was very calm and the road lay in a low situation, with high land on one side and woods on both. From 7 A M. until sunset the mercury stood above 80° — with very little wind all day. I travelled this day 28 miles & came to 12 mile Creek, being that distance from Niagara. The road all along this way is very good, and the Land I consider as being as good in quality as any I have seen since I left Montreal. In all the low lands from Stony Creek where I remained last night I have observed numbers of the *Platanus Occidentalis*, being the first that I have seen in their natural state — One of the greatest hardships which I endured here, and in many other places, is the want of good water. There is not a drop to be gotten except where

the Inhabitants have dug wells, which but comparatively few have done, rather subjecting themselves to one of the greatest inconveniences in life, than be at the trouble of digging for a few feet, when they might possess abundance of excellent water — People are generally beginning to cut down their hay, and secure it. I see that here they have found no better method of building it in ricks than in the most part of America. Building the hay round a long pole previously fastened in the ground to prevent it from falling down, The top of the pole remains some feet above the hay all winter, and as there is no thatch used, I do not think that a more effectual method could be adapted for to rot the hay completely — The Corn seems to grow remarkably well; here it is far superior to what it is lower down — Day fair, Ther. 94

10th. I only went as far as Niagara this day — This Town is situated at the junction of the River St. Lawrence[19] with Lake Ontario; in an agreeable situation — This Town was formerly called Newark, and was burnt by the Americans during the late war, not one house being spared, so that all the present Town has been built since that period — It contains a number of streets, but none of them are yet filled up with houses; however I consider it as at least half as large as York. On the North side of the Town and close to the Lake is a Fort, named Mississago, and on the South side, on the bank of the St. Lawrence is Fort George. There are also Barracks in the vicinity of the Town — At present there are about 300 of the 68th Regt. stationed here — The only Building worthy of particular notice is the Jail, which stands about a quarter of a mile out of the Town — It is a large two-story house[20] — of brick, very handsome and is considered as the finest building in Canada — At present it

contains within its walls the celebrated Gourley[21] — A few of the Niagara Newspapers that I have seen are nearly filled with his writings and those of his opponents — However I believe that he generally remains last on the field — which is commonly considered as proof of victory — One of his papers, which was of great lenth I read, and from the sentiments it contains — I cannot think that He is so dangerous a Character, as the men in Power, would have People believe — He is very free in giving his opinion concerning the characters of the Governors, and I suspect that his greatest fault is speaking too many truths, which are not thought to be seasonable or agreeable — He asserts positively that the Duke of Richmond came to Canada solely for the purpose of making money, and that Sir Peregrine Maitland made a clandestine, runaway marriage with a daughter of the Duke's in France, but that Peace was made, through the mediation of the Duke of Wellington under whom Sir Peregrine was serving at that time — This connection elevated him greatly, and eventually made him Governor of Upper Canada — I was informed that the breadth of the river here is 3/4 of a mile — On the opposite side, on a point of land that projects a little way into the Lake stands Fort Niagara, belonging to the Americans — If sufficiently manned it is said to be strong — During the late war the British took it by surprise, but it was given up at the conclusion of Peace. This day was very hot, in the forenoon it was fair, but in the afternoon There were showers to the South and lightning in the evening. the Ther. 94 —

On the 11th after Breakfast I departed on my way to the Falls, which are distant from the Town of Niagara 14 miles — All the way to Queenstown the road is close to the River; the Banks of the St. Lawrence here are very high

and steep, but not rocky — I consider this as being as pleasant a walk as any that I have seen in America — I cannot say that the land is good; it is sand, but yet the crops look well, and every house here has an orchard. Cherries are very abundant in this part of the Country, and there are a good number of Peaches — To day I have seen, and eaten a greater number of Cherries than I think that I ever have done before — They are all planted right alongside the road and any person that passes may take what he pleases of them — Being come to Queenstown, which is quite a small village, I was anxious to get upon the field of battle — by which its name has obtained celebrity[22] — Close to the Upper end of the Town the spot was pointed out to me where the Brave General Brock was killed — It is quite near to the road and is marked by a number of thorn bushes, which form a kind of circle — They were not however planted on that account, but have grown here long before that circumstance taking place — From Niagara to Queenstown the land is quite level but at the south end of the latter it rises very suddenly in the form of a ridge at right angles to the river. This is what is called Queenstown Heights, and on which the battle was fought — that is called by the same name — This ridge is continued of exactly the same appearance on the opposite side of the river, and look as if at some period they had been joined — The bed of the river is very much contracted where it passes through the Heights, and the Banks are steep, and rise greatly in height above the water — A number of the Americans were driven over these heights into the river, when attempting to seek safety by flight. When I reached the top of the Heights I sat down for some time to enjoy the prospect before me. On the very spot where many a man had lost his life, the fruits of Pride

and Ambition. I was here at noon when the mercury stood 84°. With mingled sensations of pleasure and melancholy I viewed this, and some other similar scenes, where many hundreds of my fellow creatures had been hurried into Eternity — As the ground rises here so suddenly I expected that on reaching the top of the heights — I would have an extensive view of the opposite side at least as far as the Falls — but I was astonished to find that instead of there being a declivity, it was all level to the South & West — There is no perceptible rise in the land all the way to Lake Erie, I am informed, so that it seems as if the Falls had been originally at this place. The Banks of the River become now rocky and from one to two hundred feet in height — After travelling three miles above this I was informed that there was a Whirlpool in the river (which was now distant from the road 1½ miles) well worth the attention of a Stranger — Having abundance of time I determined to take a view of the whirlpool, which some People told me was as great a curiosity as the Falls — I found this Whirlpool to be caused by a very sudden turn in the direction of the river. Immediately above this, the river is very much contracted in breadth, which causes it to flow with great rapidity; so that when its course changes its former direction at a very acute angle, instead of rounding the projection of the rock the water runs past the course that it afterwards assumes, and has formed a capacious basin, round which it is whirled — A few lines will render it more intelligible than many words (*see illustration*).

The sight cannot be called sublime yet it is well worth attention — the water is almost level on the surface, but by its whirling and contortions in every direction with the foam on the top, it shows that it is greatly agitated below the

its course onward
at a very acute angle, instead of
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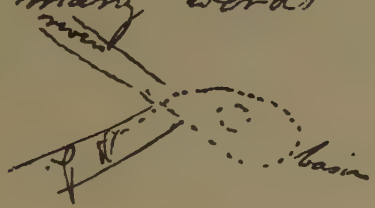
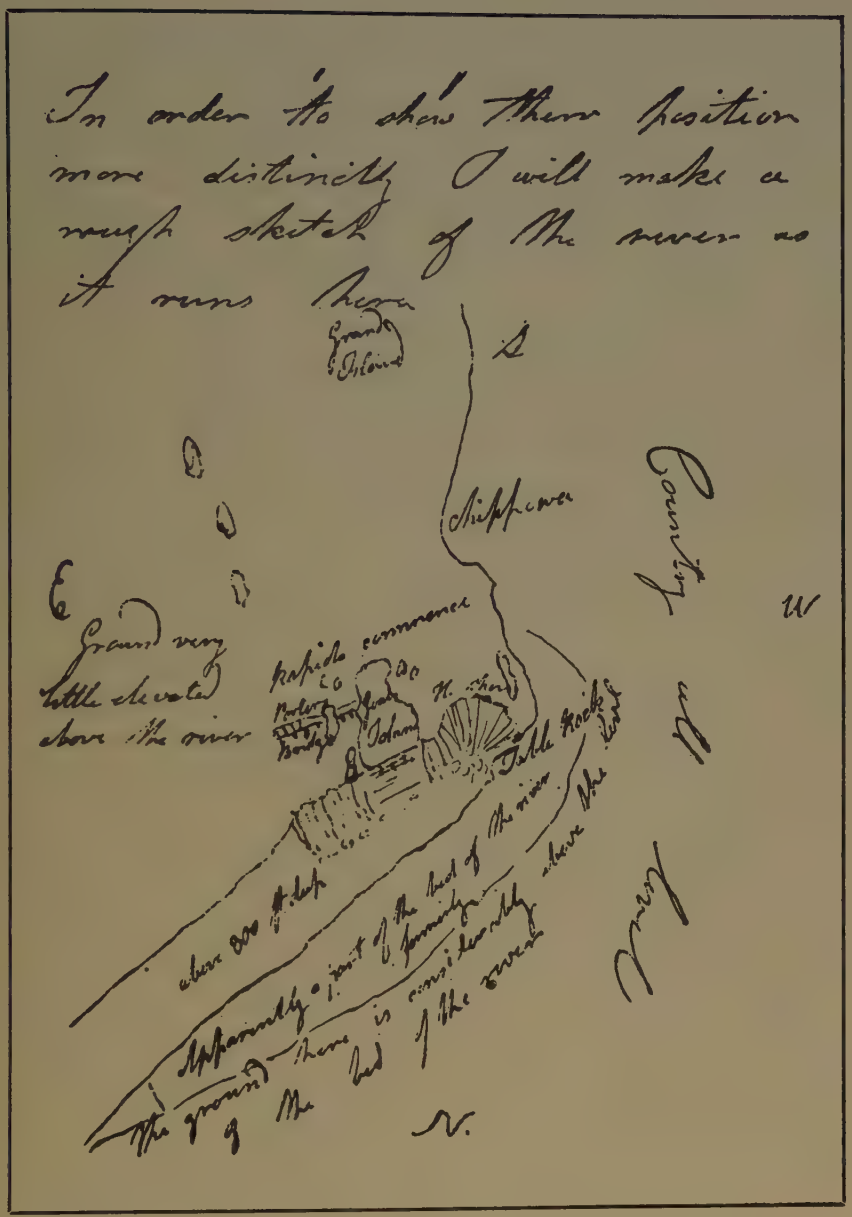


surface — Their is a something of Grandeur and Dignity in its stillness which much pleased me, even more than if it had been in a greater commotion above — The Banks here are very high, near the top they are perpendicular, and often more, nearer the water they have a slope, this part of them being covered with trees — The river here is certainly narrow and must be remarkably deep, although from the top of the bank I found myself extremely much deceived in the distance — I believe that few People at first sight but would believe that they could cast a stone to the opposite side of the river, I almost thought so but upon trial I was not able to throw one into the edge of the water next to me, although it appeared to be almost quite under where I stood. There is a ladder placed down the face of the rock of 28 steps by which you can approach the waters' edge — On the rocks here I found two species of little ferns which I had not hitherto met with — Returning again to the road I proceeded on for the Falls which were now distant only 4 miles — By this time I was much disappointed in not hearing their sound: having been of opinion that before this I would have heard them roaring like the loudest thunder. When I got within two miles of them I could hear them distinctly enough but far from being loud. The Afternoon being well spent I did not think of visiting them to night but remained at a Tavern only one mile distant from these celebrated Wonders of Nature — This day was hot and fair, Ther. 90

12th. This morning rained a little so that I did not go out until after breakfast To visit the Falls — On approaching them I found the ground in their vicinity to exhibit a very different appearance from what I had expected. Instead of high rocks & precipices above the Falls, and low valleys &

glens below them, all is perfectly level to appearance. Indeed you rather have to descend as you approach them — At the distance of 200 yds there is nothing to be seen in the banks of the River that would lead you to expect any such thing as Falls at this place — Before getting to Table Rock you must descend a pretty steep bank at a little distance, and being down you immediately find yourself on Table Rock at the very edge of the falling water — This fall of water has been generally considered as one of the Grandest and most Sublime appearances in Nature. I shall not dispute it. They certainly are Grand, but do not exceed nor even equal the idea of them that I had formed — To me they possess none of that Aweful and Terrific Sublimity which I have beheld in a stormy and tempestuous Ocean — I was extremely dissappointed with respect to the sound of the falling of so great a body of water — After remaining some time above, I went down below to the bottom of the fall having read that the sound was there far greater than above but still had the mortification to be dissapointed — two people might stand at the edge of the fall and hear each other speak in their common tone of voice, as well as if they were a mile distant from it — There is no perceptible descent in the ground all the way from Lake Erie to Queenstown so that the height of the falls is caused by the greater depth of the bed of the River below than above them. The river above the falls is very broad and runs from about SE. to NW. but immediately below them it takes a sudden bend to the NE. Above the descent the river is nearly as high as the adjacent country, while below all the way to Queenstown it is as much beneath the banks as the height of the falls — The river is divided into two parts by Goats Island as is generally well known, and the greatest portion of the water runs on the Canadian

side. Goats Island is the largest being I guess half a mile in length, but there are 10 more Islands immediately adjoining to it, eight on the American side and two on the Canadian which are not commonly mentioned at all; at least I have seen no account of them — For nearly the space of a mile above the falls the bed of the river descends a number of feet, being very uneven, with great breaks in the rocks which form the bottom of the river, and which causes the water to be extremely rough & to have a very rapid current — The fall on the North side is nearly in the form of a semicircle, the middle from the greater quantity of water falling, wearing much faster than the sides — From its shape it is called the Horse shoe fall. The Fall on the other side is indented in many places, but not nearly so much as the other one; the quantity of water falling here being small in comparison of the Horse Shoe. In order to show their position more distinctly I will make a rough sketch of the river as it runs here. When standing on Table Rock close to the water, I did not feel in the least affrighted, except from the appearance of its projecting so much over the bottom of the Bank — There is a great quantity of water falls in the middle part of this fall where it assumes a very deep green colour but at both sides, you see nothing but spray as white as snow — It is seldom that a person can have a distinct view of the water at the bottom of the fall, for it is enveloped in fog, from the Spray which rises in clouds, a portion of which falls immediately, while the rest is carried into the atmosphere to join its kindred Waters — After viewing it some time above I proceeded down along the side of the river for about 1/4 mile when I came to the Ladder by which you descend the bank and come to the falling water — In some writers the descent here is represented as both terrifying


In order to shew there position more distinctly I will make a rough sketch of the river as it runs here
Grand Island
S
Chippewa
Country
W
Grand very little elevated above the river
Rapids commence
Navy Island
Table Rock
above the Falls
Apparently a part of the bed of the river
The ground of the bed of the river is considerably above the level
N.

& even attended with some danger — This is not the case now whatever it may have been before. There is an excellent ladder of 28 steps fastened at top to an Arbor vitae by which to descend. And lately Mr. Forsyth who keeps the nearest Inn, has erected a covered stairway by which all who choose may go on paying 1^{s} York (6$\frac{3}{4}$ ster.) Being down I walked back towards the Fall. It is rather difficult walking here from the quantity of loose rocks, lying along the waters' edge, that have fallen from the bank — The rock is remarkably loose and is daily crumbling away, so that I did not feel myself quite easy when walking below them, as a very small portion of them having fallen upon me from so great a height would have been a termination to all my labours — On approaching near the fall you are astonished to behold how greatly the bank is excavated below, so that the top projects over it a number of yards — This sight is sufficient to make a person suspicious of standing on Table Rock when they see how thin a piece of stone it is that seperates them from being precipitated into the dreadful abyss below — I went close to the edge of the falling water, when in an instant I was completely drenched by the spray. There is a considerable space between the water and the rock so that a person may go a few feet behind the fall, but it is attended with considerable danger. The Air is in violent agitation behind the water, and there is nothing but water and darkness. After all the enquiries that I have made I could not learn that ever any person had gone far below the water, and although it has been asserted that some people have passed quite through to the other side — yet I consider it as a notorious falsehood so confident am I that it is altogether impossible to do this that I would doubt my own sight were I to see it actually performed — Here I saw three

snakes almost in the very water, two of the striped and one of what is called the milk kind; I was much surprised to meet with such company in this place — When satisfied with viewing the water I began to examine the vegetable productions of this interesting place and found a number of plants which I had not hitherto observed, some of them however I had not the pleasure of seeing in blossom — This day was for the most part fair with a few slight showers. ther. 82 —

On the 13th I again went to the Falls to satisfy my curiosity and endurance to discover more plants in their vicinity — When I was on the rocks below the Falls I saw a boat going across the river, and being anxious to visit Goats Island I went in it. I had always considered this Island as being inaccessible to man, but have been informed that some people have been in the habit of visiting it for many years past. They sailed from the American side as far into the stream as the Island is situated, at some distance above it, the water being but shallow, they were enabled to reach the Island and to return without any danger, and little difficulty — At present however there is an excellent bridge from the shore by which a waggon may pass with ease — The water runs here with great impetuousity and is very rough from opposing rocks, and passing over shelves but it is by no means deep — The Bridge is supported by lagre [large] beams of wood fixed together in the form of a parellellogram, and the space in the middle is filled with large stones — There was a former bridge a little higher up than where the present one stands but it was destroyed by the ice last season — Between Goats Island and the shore there is another Isle by which the Bridge is carried and then from this Isle to Goats I. The distance from Land to the

first Island is about 130 yds and from this to Goats Island about 90 yds so that the whole length of the Bridge is 220 yds. Every grown Person pays here 25 cents (1¼ ster.) and children half price — There is a good road around the Island, and a considerable portion of the upper end is cleared and at present carries a good crop of corn — The circumference I suppose may at least be a mile and it contains at present one log house — They cross the river here quite close to the falls, it has a considerable swell but is not any way dangerous — It surprised me to see the water so smooth immediately after falling from so great a height — For a little distance below the Horse Shoe Fall the surface of the water has exactly the appearance of snow when partially frozen and some of it carried about in all directions by the wind — Farther down it has the appearance of an extremely violent internal agitation, but nearly smooth on the surface, being the same as displayed by the Whirlpool below — I imagine that the waters' not being much more agitated, arises from the very great depth of the river — The People who ferry here told me that it was above 340 feet in depth — It is a singular circumstance how the solid rock came to be cut to so great a depth, all the surrounding country being level — From viewing the country here a Person would readily conclude that the Falls originally were at Queenstown; But the time requisite for their receding so far, by the wearing of the rocks, would be a vast deal more, than, what we believe to be the duration of this earth in its present form — People who live here inform me that in the space of 30 years passed the Horse Shoe Fall has assumed its present shape from being nearly straight — Should the World continue as long as they will require to go two or three miles up the river then the Falls will be completely

destroyed, for above that the bed of the river is not composed of rocks but sand — Weather, to day fair, Ther. 82 —

14th cloudy, ther. 83

15th cloudy with slight rain, ther. 80

16th cloudy with thunder & heavy showers, ther. 70. To day I went to see a burning spring[23]. The water rises in the edge of the St. Lawrence, and is covered in the manner of a Pump; on the top there is a gun barrel fixed, and on applying fire to its mouth it instantly burns, with a bluish flame — It appears to be Hydrogen Gas, which is by some means disengaged from the water — and burns on the application of fire —

17th cloudy forenoon, clear afternoon, ther. 78

18th. This being the last day of my stay in this place I went again to the Falls. Still after all I am not satisfied with them. But I think that the defect lies in the surrounding country, not in the Falls themselves — I may observe here that when standing on the bank of the river, looking down to the water, after having fallen, when the Sun is nearly on one side of you A rainbow is to be seen below you as if on the surface of the water; but at sun rising or setting you will see one the same as in a shower — The Time that I have remained here I stopped in Lundys' Lane[24], a place well known by name on account of the Bloody Battle fought there in the late war — The scene of the Battle is scarcely a mile distant from the Falls, on a little eminence close to the public road — The Americans although vastly superior in numbers were driven from the field, a circumstance which they are unwilling to admit — I saw some of the houses here, that were literally riddled by the bullets shot during the action — This day was fair. Ther. 80 —

On the 19th after having packed up and sent for Kingston

what specimens I had collected, I departed for Fort Erie — Two miles above the Falls I passed through the Village of Chippewa, near which there was a battle fought[25], where 1500 British were driven from the field by 5000 of the Americans under General Brown — The Canadian Militia suffered severely at this engagement — The road goes alongside the river, and the country is thickly settled all along this way; there are a number of Islands between the Falls and Lake Erie the principal of which are Navy Island & Grand Island. The last being a number of miles in length. The Commissioners for settling the Lines between Canada & the States were encamped on the upper end of Grand Island, when I passed this — I came this night to the Ferry opposite Black Rock, and about a mile below Fort Erie — where I remained for the night — This day was fair — ther. 82 —

20th. Before leaving Canada, I went up in the morning to see Fort Erie — which is situated where the St. Lawrence opens from Lake Erie — I always imagined that it was still held by some troops, but on coming to it I found it to be a complete ruin — The whole of the Buildings & fortifications are destroyed and appear to be as when it was blown up in the War — In my opinion this has been, and could be made one of the strongest Fortifications in Upper Canada. There is little doubt, but, that if another war should happen between the States and Britain, the latter will pay attention to the repairing of this Fort — I eat Breakfast before that I crossed the river — There is a strong current in the river here which makes it difficult to cross — it is about 1/2 mile in breadth, and the boats have to set off, at least 1/4 mile above where they are to land on the opposite side. The charge is a quarter dollar for each Person, and half a Dollar

for a Horse — You land at Black rock which is a kind of Village, containing between 40 & 50 houses considerably scattered; the only house that is any way conspicuous is that of General Porter[26] — it is a very handsome two story Building — I did not stop any here but went on to Buffalo two miles from this — Buffalo is a large Town, and contains a number of very elegant brick buildings — The present Town has been all built since the war — it being burnt by the British in retaliation for the inhuman and barbarous policy by which the Americans were actuated in burning Newark — From all accounts I learn that the Americans carried on the war in this part of the country, more like Savages, than civilised Beings — They carried off all that they could seize even the household furniture burnt a great number of private houses, and cut down the most of the fruit trees — so that many people are not yet in such circumstances as they were before the war — Many of the Inhabitants here hate the Yankies, as the Devil, and wish to have another opportunity of shooting a few of them — I remained a few hours in Buffalo having gone into a Booksellers shop. I was pleased to see an extensive collection of books, and a number of them published in London as late as 1818 — When I arrived here I scarcely knew which way I was going next — after examining a map I determined to proceed along the south side of L. Erie to Erie or perhaps further, as I shall determine when I reach that place. There is a large creek runs near to Buffalo which must be crossed in going up the Lake — This is one inconvenience which a traveller meets with in the States, that if a Creek be large you may expect to find no Bridge but should there be one, then it has been raised by individuals who charge toll so whether in boats or on bridges you must pay the same — I

travelled 12 miles from Buffalo 8 of which were on the Beach, which is as tiresome a road as ever I before have travelled — it is so very soft that you sink into the sand the same as if it were snow — This day was fair, but cloudy in the afternoon which made it more cool — I did not see the ther. this day.

21st. I had an opportunity of riding in a waggon for upwards of 20 miles. As the road lay close to the Lake and for nearly half the way on the beach I preferred riding to walking — All along this part of the Lake I consider the soil as very indifferent a considerable portion of it being very sandy and some approaching to clay — For eight miles on this side of Buffalo there is a tract of land belonging to the Indians[27], a great number of whom reside in this neighbourhood — and have some villages — Afterwards the houses are pretty thick along the road — The Rye and wheat harvest is begun in a few places. Indian Corn appears to grow better here than any other kind of grain, in many places it is very fine — There seems to be a general deficiency in the flax crop in this part of the country; it is very short, owing to the want of sufficient moisture — This country is frequently doomed to suffer severely from want of sufficient rain — I am informed that this season has been very dry, and last season there was not as much rain fell as would reach the depth of an inch into the ground from the beginning of June until October, which caused a great deficiency in the crops — This road is the worst for wheeled carriages of any that I have ever seen, being so full of stumps and tree roots, that it requires great attention to prevent being overturned — Although I had a liberty to ride all the way, yet in many places I chose to walk rather than suffer the jolting of the waggon — Thirty miles from Buffalo I passed a large

creek at a place named Catteraugus, where there is a Tavern and two or three houses — I went on through a similar scenery until sunset when I remained for the night at a Tavern — This day I found the beautiful Monarda Kalmiana, being the first time I had seen this plant. It has a very different appearance from the M. didyma with which it has been confounded — I observed also a species of Allium, with a bulbous root and a stem about six inches high, but without any leaves, it was not fully blown but the flower is white — day fair. Ther. 83 — I should have mentioned that in the evening I found a piece of swampy ground covered with the Rhododendron maximum all in flower — I scarcely was ever more pleased with the sight of a plant, than to see this in its native soil —

22d. I started a little after sunrise and continued my journey — Early in the forenoon I passed through a small village named Fredonia — Since I left Catteraugus the road has been about a mile and a half distant from the Lake. The land is very light — Mostly all the wheat is ready for cutting. In a few instances I have observed the people cut the wheat with sickles; but it is generally done with the scythe, and what is called the cradle — Orchards are plentiful here, and more than half of the fruit trees are Peaches, which seem to bear large quantities of fruit; but I suspect some of them are indifferent in quality, none of the trees being grafted — Buck-wheat sowing is now finished, and in most places it is above ground — As I came through the woods to day, I was surprised to see immense quantities of seedlings of that beautiful tree the Liriodendron Tulipifera, without being able to perceive an old one. Although this tree is so distinct from all others, in the singular form of its leaves, yet I afterwards found that I had passed many of

them without knowing what they were — I had no conception that this ever grew to such a size, and in such a form — The common size of the stem at bottom is from 3 to 4 ft diameter and it continues of nearly the same dimensions, and remarkably straight, to the height of from 40 to 60 ft without a single branch or even a leaf — after it begins to branch the head is but short, and looks as if stunted, so that it does not possess the beauty of a young tree — In this part of the country the Inhabitants call it cucumber Tree, from the similarity of its fruit to that of a young cucumber — For nearly the space of two weeks, I have enjoyed one very great comfort. There have no Mosquitoes troubled me — I know now how to appreciate such an exemption — Taverns are generally to be met with along this road at one or two miles' distance. I do not think that they can reap much advantage from such an employment, more particularly since the Steam Boat has run from Black Rock to Detroit — as most of the People going up or down, prefer the water, to land travelling — This day was fair with appearance of thunder showers to SE., in the evening the sky became overcast, and looked as if it would soon rain. Ther. 88 —

23d. There was a heavy shower of rain during last night, which rendered travelling more agreeable in the morning, but by midday you could not perceive that there had been any rain, and the road was remarkably dusty and disagreeable. The morning was cloudy, with a considerable breeze of wind. Before noon I entered into the State of Pensylvania, which borders on Lake Erie for a considerable distance — I observed nothing in the country to day different from its appearance for some days past — The Inhabitants are generally busily employed in cutting their wheat — There is much talk of war here with Britain — A number of the

People seem to be much inclined to have another rupture, being so confident that they are much superior to the British, both by sea and land — I hear them all affirming that when equal in numbers, and even when inferior they defeated them always in the late war; Assertions which I am confident are notoriously false or else hundreds of the Canadians where the Battles were fought, have much deceived me — I believe that through all the States you will find the Irish to bear the most inveterate hatred to the British Nation & Government — This afternoon there was much thunder which went all around this, but in the evening there was a considerable shower, which caused me to stop a short time so that I did not reach Erie this night. Ther. 92 —

24th. This morning I went to Erie which was about two miles from where I stopped last night — I remained here a little time, and took breakfast before that I proceeded further — This Town is situated upon the shore of the Lake — Before the Town there is a large Bay caused by a narrow peninsula which goes out from the mainland some miles to the westward and runs down opposite to the Town, at from one to two miles distance — This would be an excellent place for shipping if it was not so shallow. At the mouth of the Bay there is a sand bank which reaches nearly from the one side to the other, which hinders large vessels from entering it — There is a Blockhouse at the extremity of the peninsula, and two of the war sloops are lying near to it — This Town is not very extensive yet, but from its situation is likely to increase rapidly, as it is the port for a large tract of country to the southward — The Steam-Boat which sails from Black-Rock once every week, touches here, and at two or three more places along the Lake, and then

proceeds to Detroit, whence she returns by the same route — She formerly came close to the Town but having one time got aground at the mouth of the Bay — she now stops below — The Boat made a voyage this spring as far as the fort of Michilmackinac on the upper end of Lake Huron, which is the only time that a Steam Boat has been in that part of the World — I determined now to proceed by the Pittsburgh road instead of going any further up the Lake — There is an excellent turnpike from this to Waterford a Town fourteen miles distant — The Land looks to be pretty good along the way, but is very thinly settled, owing to the Proprietors' having raised the price to 10 Dollars per acre, while as good can be purchased in the neighbourhood for 1. — They consider the turnpike to enhance its value so much above that which is situated farther back in the country — This day was fair and cloudy alternately with some showers. Ther. 84 —

25th. This being Sunday I remained at Waterford all day — In the morning it was fair, but in the afternoon there was a great deal of thunder went round, a little rain came this way two or three times — ther. 92 —

26th. Having observed some plants yesterday of which I had no specimens I had alloted this morning before setting out for the purpose of collecting them; but this day proved so rainy that I was oblidged to remain here all day, without getting anything done — In coming this way from Erie the ground rises greatly for 9 miles and for the other 5 descends considerably so that although Waterford be much lower than the surrounding country yet I consider it to be higher than the level of the Lake — This Town may contain about 50 houses, scarcely two of which are joined together, & none of them possessing much extended elegance — At a short

distance from the Town is a small Lake called le Beuf [Le Boeuf], which seems to be about one mile in circumference — From this Lake there runs a small creek by which boats descend to Pitsburgh — The greater part of Travellers, and particularly Families of Emigrants purchase Boats here and go by water — There are people here who make boats of all kinds, and always have a stock on hand ready for travellers — If I had had a Botanical Companion I would have purchased a skiff and taken the water, there being as good a chance of meeting with plants along the edges of the Creek as along the road — A Boat sufficient to carry two or three people can be purchased for six Dollars — Although this day did not rain constantly yet the woods were so wet that I could do nothing with specimens; so I amused myself with the Spectator, which at all times is a good and agreeable companion — Ther. 73 —

27th. This morning being dry although cloudy and foggy, I collected the specimens; and about 9 o clock I set out on my journey — After leaving Waterford there is but a very indifferent road, all the making that it has got being only the clearing it of trees — on account of the late rain it was very muddy. The greatest part of the timber here is oak, and the soil is of a gravelly clay, which however produced generally good crops — About mid-day I heard the thunder roaring to the westward, which after some time came this way — The rain continued for about two hours during which I remained under cover of an old shed along with some sheep — The sky having again cleared I journeyed southwards at a slow pace, the road which was bad before being now a great deal worse — As Taverns are scarcer here than many places in America, by the time that I reached the first one from Waterford, it was near sunset so I remained there

for the night — The Landlord informed me that His Ex-Kingship Joseph Bonaparte[28], dined here one time in the course of His Journey through this State, and there being a Picture or rather a caricature, pasted on the wall, representing his Brother Napoleon, on horseback attempting to grasp the Russian Crown, while he was attacked in front by the Russian bear, and in rear by the British Lion — Joseph bought this piece and tore it in pieces — displeased to see his Brother exhibited in such a disagreeable situation. Ther. 78 —

28th. This morning I crossed the French Creek, which is the same that I mentioned as coming from the Lake Le Beuf — some places here are thickly settled, while others are not so — For a considerable distance the road lies near to the Creek — and there are some excellent meadow land in many places on each side of it — In the afternoon I reached the Town of Meadville, a considerable Village, situated in a pleasant situation — It has a printing Office, and publishes a Weekly Newspaper[29] — I may here observe that on account of not using stamped paper, A Weekly paper is sold at the very reasonable rate of two Dollars p^{r}. annum. Immediately after leaving Meadville I had again to cross the creek at this place there is a covered Bridge, an object with which I should always be extremely glad to have nothing to do — I believe it is from early habit that I Have acquired so great an antipathy to toll Bridges, I would feel more satisfied in giving six cents at a ferry than three at a Bridge. I only got 7 miles from Town to night. The most of the way is without houses — There are plenty of wild Turkeys in this place, the man, where I stopped told me that he had shot one to day — Deers, Bears, and Wolves, are not uncommon — I have been enquiring almost every day about

Rattlesnakes but I find there is no likelyhood of my meeting with any, a circumstance that gives me much uneasiness — They are very rare now in this part of the States, a few may be seen in the course of the season, but no considerable quantity — Almost every person with whom I have discoursed about them, pretend to be able to cure their bite — The remedies are all plants of various kinds, however I do not place much confidence in their abilities — This day was fair, ther. 88 —

29th. A great part of this day I travelled through woods, with few houses. The land in general is low lying & of a swampy nature. I think that by a little labour it could be rendered fit for the purposes of Agriculture — The road through the woods is very indifferent, from too much moisture, and the little Attention paid to keeping it in repair — There is a turnpike commenced to go from Waterford to Pitsburgh so that when it is finished there will be little travel on this — I was able to reach only the Town of Mercer this evening. This Town is in one of the finest situations of any that I have seen in this part of the country — being on a considerable eminence and possessing a larger view of the surrounding country than the most of American towns — The Town is but small, with no building of notice. it is a pity that it does not possess some Inhabitants of a more enterprising spirit — There is a Printing office here, which publishes a Weekly Paper[30] — This morning was foggy but the sun soon dispelled it. day fair. Ther. 84 —

30th. Soon after leaving Mercer I found the country to exhibit a very different appearance from any that I have yet passed through — I got now in amongst oaks which were generally only a few feet high — so that the country looked

as if it had once been cleared, and only partially grown again — however I believe that it is yet in its natural state — The soil is nothing but gravel, and scarcely worthy of cultivation. To the northward this state is for the most part pretty level but here it begins to be remarkably uneven on the surface — In the course of a days journey you will not find one mile of the road level, but continually up one hill and down another — These hills, (or rather eminences, or any thing you please that is not too large,) are of no great height or extent, but extremely numerous and mostly of a conical form — There is no art displayed in the plan of the road which is carried right forward, however steep it may be, which renders it extremely severe on horses in loaded waggons — Still the People are scarce, and what there are, are generally Irish, or of Irish extraction, flaming Republicans — In most of the Newspapers that I have seen hereabouts there are some anecdotes or another, in order to display the superiority of the Yankees over the British in the art of war. But they seem to exult most in their naval operations, and consider the British Tars as no match for them on equal terms — I generally keep silent when I hear these topics discussed, as they and I cannot agree in our opinions — There is a general outcry of "Bad Times", no money to be seen, Banks failing and all things at a Stand. The Banking system is carried to a ruinous extent in this, and all the other States. I have seen a list of 49 Chartered Banks in the State of Pensylvania alone, and the others in proportion — Almost every village and even private persons have had Banks and passed their Bills to a large amount, which in a short time are of no value — I have made it a rule at no time to take any of their paper, for what you will receive in one Town, very probably will be refused in the next — I did not make

much above twenty miles to day — The weather is beginning to be so hot now that it is extremely fatiguing to walk and carry so heavy a load as I have to do — Fair — Ther. 94.

31st. I started at sunrise and marched for Harmony, nine miles distant — for one mile there were some houses but afterwards it was all woods for 8 miles — The woods were much more pleasant to travel through than they generally are, being thin of trees with few bushes of underwood and the road excellent — I have found this kind of land and wood to be very productive of a great variety of plants — I saw nothing worthy of notice until I came near Harmony where I almost thought that I had been transported to some part of the north of Scotland, from the appearance of a collection of huts, which had the walls of them been stone certainly resembled the cottages of the Highlanders — There was a number of them set up with their ends to the road, on each side, and perhaps in one out of six you might be able to trace some slight indications of there being some kind of live Animal about the place — They were all covered with thatch, and certainly were the most ugly, dirty, and wretched looking set of houses, or hovels that ever I saw or expected to see in America — Upon enquiry I found that they were built by a Colony of Germans, about 28 years ago, But some years since they totally abandoned this part of the country and marched to some other place — About half a mile further I came to the Town of Harmony, which was built and inhabited by the same colony[31] — Originally it seems to have been built in the same style as those described above but at present there are about twelve brick houses in the Town, but all extremely inelegant having remarkably high steep roofs. On a little hill near the Town

there has been once expended a great deal of labour to cut it all on one side in the form of stairs, and on which vines were planted. However since the Germans left the place they have been destroyed by cattle — I think it probable that vines would do well here. A small muddy creek passes this, over which there was a bridge but it had fallen lately so that you have to pass over on a kind of raft of old boards awkwardly put together — I went eleven miles beyond this to night when I was stopped by rain. This day was extremely hot. I thought that I would have melted altogether. I never before perspired so much in one day as I did in this, my cloaths were all the same as if I had been in a river — After breakfast I could eat no more to day, but drank so much that in the evening I felt considerably unwell — About 5 P.M. there was a good deal of thunder and a smart shower, And after sunset there was a very severe thunder storm which continued some hours — The Thermometer was for the most part of the day above 90 — The highest that I observed was 96.

1st Sept. This being Sunday I stopped here all day, and indeed I felt but little inclination for travelling or exertion of any kind to day — The forenoon was fair, in the afternoon there was a thunder storm. Ther. 88

2d. After breakfast I set out for Pitsburgh, which is 14 miles from this, arrived there in the afternoon. The country here is the most uneven of any that I ever saw and yet there is no hills of any consequence — The soil is very barren, in many places the oats may be worth cutting with the scythe, but not with the hook — It is the general practice here to finish the wheat & rye harvest before cutting the hay — so that the latter in many places is not yet cut — I did not obtain a view of Pitsburgh until very near to it, from its

low situation — Before entering the Town you have to cross the Allegheny river which is about 400 yds wide — There is a very fine bridge building across the river here consisting of 5 very large arches supported by stone piers, the upper part being of wood — Pitsburgh is situated on an angle formed by the junction of the Alleghany & Monongahela rivers which afterwards assume the name of Ohio — The Town is large and has a number of good brick houses in it, but it has a black and gloomy aspect from the great number of furnaces about the place, which burn only pit coal — There is a vast quantity of coal all around this which can be raised at very little expence, and which causes it to be used in preference to wood — On the south of the Monongahela — there is a ridge of hills 300 ft high, which rise very abruptly from the river, and can be ascended in only a few places — These are named the Coal Hills — This Town in the Capital of this Western country, from which the westward is supplied with manufactures — Mostly all the Emigrants to the west pass through this and descend the Ohio in boats — In the summer season there is not much water trade here on account of the lowness of the river — at present I saw only a few small boats lying here and a steam-Boat on the stocks. The first places that I visited when in a Town were always the Booksellers shops — Here I found an excellent, and extensive collection of books, in almost all the Sciences, and even some on Botany, a subject on which I scarcely expected to find any. They have the London & Edinburgh Reviews, and all the late popular publications in Britain — As soon as they come to America they are reprinted in a less splendid and expensive form so that you can purchase books for almost one third of their London price — The Town contains ten or eleven Thousand inhabitants, natives of all

nations — In former times when the French possessed Canada, they had a Fort here at the confluence of the two rivers, which was named Fort du Quesne, and served as a connecting post between their northern and southern colonies — General Braddock was sent to take it by the British in 1755, but by his foolish bravery and want of caution, he was surprised by the French and Indians near this and lost the most of his Army and himself was mortally wounded — The field where he was shot is 9 miles from Pitsburgh and is still esteemed on account of its being one of the first scenes where General Washington signalized himself — This Town or rather where the Town is, was for some time called Fort Pit, from which it has its present appellation — This day was fair and hot — Ther — 94.

3d. I now considered that I must commence a retrograde motion, it being necessary for me to be in Montreal by the middle of Sept^{r} — I remained in Town till near noon when I crossed the Alleghany and returned by the road that I came to town — My present determination is to go by Franklin, then along the Alleghany till I reach York State, whence I will proceed to Sackets harbor, where I can get to Kingston in a steam boat — This morning was very foggy, it afterwards cleared and was very hot — about 2 P.M. I was stopped by a very heavy storm of thunder and rain which continued for about 4 hours with little intermission — I came to where I had remained on Sunday, at which place the Franklin road leaves the one to Harmony &c — Ther 94 —

4th. This morning was dull & foggy, I packed up all my Articles, and prepared to set homewards — I did not get away until after noon, and I travelled 42 miles. This road is not so public as the one on which I have been formerly

travelling — The Houses are very few in number — and the land very sterile — This is but a very poor country to all appearance, the only good qualification that it has, is that of being a healthy country, chiefly owing to its want of stagnant waters — This seems to be the peculiar land of Thunder; this afternoon there was much thunder to the east — but it went round at some distance from this. Ther. 86 —

5th. I again got into the woods finding occasionally a house after some miles walking — The road is tolerably good for foot travellers but does not seem to be much trodden — I am informed that early in the summer a number of People pass up this way, after having been down at Pitsburgh with rafts — I make it my business at every house to enquire after Rattlesnakes, but never can see any, although that they are occasionally killed all along this course during summer, and both People and Cattle are sometimes bitten by them; few however of either die, the Inhabitants all have infallible cures, and each one generally differs from another — In the evening I reached a very respectable Tavern where I remained this night — About sunset it began to lighten and the sky continued for a considerable time in a blaze without the least intermission — This storm came this way, but the rain was not so heavy as might have been expected from the thunder and lightening — This day was fair. Ther 88 —

6th. When I awoke this morning it still thundered, so that it was rather late before that I set off to the bush — During the forenoon there were a few houses to be seen at some distance from one another — This is still a poor barren looking Country — scarcely able to support any inhabitants — In the afternoon I travelled through a wood about

8 miles without Inhabitants — there had formerly some People lived here, as I saw a few houses now in a state of dilapidation and some orchards along the road — The woods here, are generally of Oak very thin, and the trees not large, with abundance of suckers, and herbaceous plants, so that you have the extent of your sensible horizon considerably more enlarged than it is commonly — I think that fire at some period not very distant has overrun the woods here which causes them to be so open and scarce of trees — Having gotten along some miles, I began to descend considerably — At this place I passed great masses of Sand Stone detached from the rocks — The country here is only one continued rock, which is all a Sandstone — In descending this declivity I passed a spot of remarkably red earth, where a little boy and girl were busy spreading it as if to dry, and which, upon enquiry, they said was to make paint — In a little time I reached Sandy Creek, at which place there is a Tavern — Being very thirsty I got a glass of whiskey, but not being able to procure change I was obliged to take a gill, which was a quantity to which I have been altogether unaccustomed, since I have been travelling — The common drink all through this part of the country is Whiskey, a liquor however which is very different from Scotch whiskey — I was now 4½ miles distant from the Town of Franklin, where I wished to be to night, so I marched onwards, and arrived just in time to escape a heavy thunder storm, which had commenced some hours ago to the westward but approached this now — The lightening was terrific being mostly of that most destructive kind called zigzag which is a most appropriate appelation for it — Day fair. Ther. 86°

7th. Franklin is a Town containing a few houses scattered over a piece of flat meadowland at the junction of French

Creek with the Alleghany. It will never be a place of much importance from the nature of the surrounding country — I now expected to get completely into the wilderness for more than 100 miles — Having crossed French creek I commenced my peregrinations — for the space of two miles I found some houses but afterwards I traveled 7 or 8 before I saw another — The road here is nothing but a foot path through the woods, and in some places scarcely perceptible — The ground is nothing but rocks, and the woods of the same kind as that I met with yesterday — It is very uncomfortable walking on this foot path, which is hollowed out, leaving stones and tree roots projecting on each side, which at almost every step you are striking with your feet, a circumstance which happens to me peculiarly often, as I had to look so much around me, that I had little leisure to attend to my feet — Having at length arrived at a house I found myself at Oil creek, so named from the oil which rises on its surface in many places — It is thick and of a dark brown colour having a strong disagreeable bituminous smell — It arises so copiously that a barrel of it may be collected in a short space — Some Soldiers marching to Detroit were the first discoverers of this substance here — The weather had been wet and from being much exposed to its influences, most of the Men had been seized with the Rheumatism, particularly in their joints — In the course of their journey they happened to encamp beside this creek, and seeing the oil they determined to try its efficacy in their disorder — Having rubbed the parts affected sufficiently with it a cure was performed in a short time — Since that period it has been collected and sold, in many parts of the States — I again went into the woods, and found a house three miles from this — The next house that I came to was nine miles

distant, from which it was three more to a Tavern, which I reached just before another thunderstorm had reached this — It was a pretty severe one — I am now so accustomed to it that I expect a storm every evening, however fair the day may promise to be — This morning was very foggy; afterwards the day was fair & very hot — the heat was very severe upon me, having so heavy a load on my back & a book in each hand which encumbered me so much that I had difficulty in keeping my eyes and mouth clear of Perspiration — Ther. 90°

8th. To day I intended to have looked over and dry all my specimens after which to go ten mile which was the distance to the next Tavern — Having taken breakfast, and the sky being cloudy so as to render it unfit for my purposes, I went on expecting that the afternoon would be more clear — After a few miles I came into low moist Pine woods, which continued until I came to the Alleghany about 8 miles from where I started — The river here is of considerable size, with a number of small Islands interspersed in it — The land is very high on each side, having only a house where there is any alluvial soil — When I was standing at the river side here I saw the Deer swim across to an Island — They were not more than 100 yds distant from me, and did not show the smallest timidity on my being so near them — I had not gone far when it began to rain a little — when I came to the Tavern I saw that it was vain to think of drying specimens so I proceeded to the next one 5 miles from this but before that I reached that I was completely wet — I had some difficulty to preserve my plants from receiving any injury — The road was now become remarkably muddy, and fatiguing so here I abode for the night. Day generally cloudy — Ther 76 —

9th. This morning looked still cloudy and lowering as if it would rain — I set off for Warren — the road lies quite along the river the most part of the way — For six miles the Houses are few, for 6 miles on this side of Warren, the river side is pretty much settled — The land on each side is not so high as below and there is considerably more low alluvial soil along the river in this place — I arrived at the Town of Warren in the afternoon but could not go farther to day as the next house along my road is 14 miles distant. This Town is a County Town, although I do not think that there are 20 houses in it — Its situation is pleasant, upon the Alleghany — The few People that live here seem to frequent the Tavern more frequently, than is consistent with proper oeconomy and industry — Being in a short space of time to leave the State of Pensylvania, I may say a few things of the treatment that I have met with while in it — I have found the most of the Inhabitants where I have been to be Irish, who are in general civil People, but bear a great hatred to the British Government — Travelling in this place is much more reasonable than in Canada — The common charges are for a meal of victuals 2/ & 2/6 York, for bed /6. And all their spirituous drink is Whiskey, which is /6 per gill — The Taverns in the States are very different from any idea that could be formed of them, from only having seen the Scotch Inns. In a Tavern here there is no separate room for different persons, but all remain in what they call their Bar room, one corner of which is enclosed and contains their Liquors — There is no distinction nor difference among people in a Tavern — The President and the poorest person mixing indiscriminatingly — You can have Liquors by the glass or half gill through all America which is by much the best way. Many times in Scotland I have found it extremely

difficult to procure lodgings, even where Taverns were plenty but such is not the case in this country, when you can find a Tavern you find lodgings if you wish — When a person comes to a Tavern here they never ask if they can have lodging, but takes that for a thing of which there is no doubt. I have found the beds generally very good, and all feather ones — In Upper Canada they are exceedingly infested with Bugs, but here they are not near so numerous — Last night I slept none from fleas, an insect which I have not before met with this summer — In this along with many other places in both the States & Canada the Inhabitants are subjected to some great inconveniences — There are three things in particular which would operate strongly against my settling in this county [country?] — They are the distance from Church, a School & from a Surgeon, besides a person is very confined in the circle of People with whom he can associate. These wants I consider as a balance to many inconveniences that must be endured in many other places — This day when walking along the river I passed a few Indians who were busily employed in partly roasting & partly smoking venison — They had the Deer cut into small pieces & a number of them stuck upon a rod, which was then placed near to a fire — This day fair, ther. 80°

10th. Being now to commence to go above 60 miles through a forest I did not enter the woods until I had taken some breakfast. When I was about to set off there luckily came a man who was going the same route, by which means I had company all the way — After leaving Warren we crossed the Conewango creek, and travelled in a foot path through the woods for 14 miles when we reached a house, where a Tavern was kept — The most of the woods were of the open sort and the ground very high and completely rocks, unfit

ever to be cultivated — When we arrived at the Tavern we concluded to remain here this night, it being 14 miles to the next white mans house — This morning was very foggy — day fair — ther. 87° —

11th. Our party having now amounted to three, we started before sunrise and took the woods — this day we travelled pretty near to the river — we passed many Indian houses but the people did not appear to be numerous. I believe that a number were out hunting — In some places they have respectable houses, and farms. After travelling 12 miles we went into an Indians, and by words and signs made the Squaw give us bread and milk for breakfast — She did not understand much English, and could speak none — Continuing our journey we went through a village, having a Church & School for the Indians. About 4 P.M. we reached a farm house 30 miles from where we started in the morning, and remaind this night. It was with difficulty that we could procure any supper and when we got it, there was not a sufficience to satisfy our appetites. Day fair, ther. 88 —

12th. We arose at day break & continued our journey — The road was of the same sort as yesterday, and for the greater part of the way to Olean was very muddy — Having travelled 14 miles we came to a house newly built, in the woods, where we had breakfast after which we proceeded to Olean point, or Hamilton, a small Village situated on the Alleghany, where the navigation begins — Most of the People who are going down the Ohio, proceed from this by water — This Town has a printing office, and publishes a Newspaper[32]. This is the most extortionous place that I have been in, in the states — The land is very worthless, and is not much cultivated — After stopping a little time here I took the road for Geneva — This is a public road although

it is very indifferent — I came seven miles from Olean to night — The houses are pretty thick along the road, but they are much of the same kind as these that I have seen — since I left Waterford — very miserable looking log huts — When I left Warren I expected to have found many rare plants along the Alleghany, but found not one that I had not formerly seen — At Olean my two companions left me, as they travelled further than I was able, or even wished to do — I generally prefer to travell alone, when I have no person that is interested in the same pursuits that I am — This day was fair. Ther. 90 —

13th. There having been rain last night — the road this morning was very muddy & disagreeable; however in a short time it became better — For the space of five miles after I started, I passed through a wood, without any settlements, but all the day afterwards there were plenty of them along the road — The land is all stones or gravel and very uneven, so that there is but a small proportion of it that can be cultivated — The predominating wood is Pine, with a few of the harder woods interspersed through it — This night I reached the Village of Angelica 32 miles from Olean, it is like the most of the American villages but small and incompact — this day was fair, Ther 86 —

14th. There is a Turnpike from Angelica to Bath a distance of 40 miles — It is generally pretty good, but very steep in many places, owing to the great inequality of the ground; and its being carried right forward, without any regard to the formation of the country. For a considerable distance this morning I met with but very few houses, but towards noon they became plentier — Along this road there is still much wheat to cut, and although this was an excellent day for that purpose, yet no person was to be seen in the fields. I

was informed that the greater part of the inhabitants in this place, were of a sect which they call Sabbatarians — I am ignorent, how far their tenets and general principles agree with the Jews; but in the observation of Saturday as their Sabbath they are both the same — This being Saturday there was no work out of doors — In the afternoon I came to a small village, or rather the rudiments of one, called Canisteo where I remained for the night; I only travelled 20 miles to day, but it was remarkably fatiguing from the great heat — This morning was foggy — and there was heavy thunder-looking clouds occasionally all day — Ther. 88 —

15th. This day I had allotted for rest, whether good or bad; however it proved a very wet morning, so that at any rate I would have been oblidged to stop — Last night I got in company with the Surgeon of this place, and I spent this day at his house, where I was very kindly entertained both by him & his Wife — This day continued cloudy with some heavy showers — Ther — 78 —

16th. There was a great deal of rain last night and this morning, but after sunrise it had the appearance of clearing — Having had breakfast I commenced my journey — the road to day was remarkably uneven, so that if it was more difficult walking it was also more clean — The road being almost dry so soon as it ceased to rain — This is an excellent country for making roads as they require no stones nor gravel put on them but only to cut them out into a proper form — About noon there was a very heavy shower accompanied with some thunder — I was not far distant from a house when it commenced, but before I could reach it, I was completely wet — After it faired I went on but had not gone far until I had to stop a second time — During the afternoon it alternately appeared to fair and to rain with occasional

thunders — I was again overtaken with a shower and was as wet as before — I was determined now that I would not pass a Tavern and I had scarcely reached one when it began to rain, and continued raining a considerable part of the night. About one half of the house where I lodged admitted the rain to pass through very copiously — so that although I got to a good fire I had difficulty to keep myself from being more moistened than when I came in — I had determined to reach Bath to night, but was stopped 3½ miles from it — Although the road here is a turnpike yet it is as much overgrown with grass and weeds as if it were a meadow, and in many places it is fit for mowing, which indicates that travellers are not overnumerous here — This morning was very hot, the Ther. about 8 A M was 84 — but in the afternoon it was more cool

17th. I was delayed by rain from setting out before 7 this morning — I travelled to Bath where I breakfasted — This is a considerable village containing some neat wooden houses — There is a man here who is about to commence great manufactories of Cloth, and Oil — I read an advertisement of his in the Papers in which He invites the people to assist him, and endeavour to expel the British manufactures from this country — This Town has a weekly Newspaper[33], which seems to be in favour of Governor Clintons administration; there is another about to commence here which is to be anti Clintonian. After leaving Bath I passed through rocky ground covered with small shrubby oaks — At six miles distance I came to a Lake of above 20 miles in length & apparently of 1 in breadth named croocked Lake[34] — At a little distance from it on both sides the country is more thickly settled than any that I have seen for a long time past — In the afternoon I passed the north end of a small

body of water, which is named little Lake, and is much settled all around — I came 20 miles from Bath, and rested for the night — This night a man lately from Albany lodged here, who informed me that there are great expectations of a war with Spain, on account of her not ratifying the treaty for the cession of the Floridas' to the U States — Great Britain is generally considered to be instigator of Spain to resist the demands of America — The yellow fever is said to be very prevalent in N York at this time — This day has been cloudy inclining oftentimes to fog — Ther. 76 —

18th. This morning was extremely foggy, so that I was involved in darkness for some time after commencing my journey — the road and country continued much the same as for some distance westward — By noon I reached the lower end of the Crooked Lake, where there are a number of Mills and a considerable Village named Penn-Yan — I observed nothing worthy of particular notice about it — There is a Newspaper published here[35] — I proceeded through a thickly inhabited country — crops every where promise great abundance of the necessaries of life — About sunset I got in view of Seneca Lake, and the Town of Geneva, where I halted for the night, having travelled to day 26 miles — This day was fair — Ther 81 —

19th. Geneva is situated at the north end of Seneca Lake — The ground rises considerably from the waters edge, which causes an agreeable prospect from the Town — This is by much the handsomest Town that I have yet met with in the States, and is pretty large — the great portion of the houses are built of wood, which have a very neat & elegant appearance when properly painted. Seneca Lake is between 40 & 30 miles in length, but its breadth is but a few miles — The soil around this is greatly superior to any that I have

seen for some time, and is well improved — Last evening I overtook a man travelling in the same direction so we agreed to keep one another company — This morning we started before sunrise and continued our journey eastward — The road here is a turnpike and is very good — Having gone 7 miles we came to the village of Waterloo, which although not compactly built, contains some of the best houses that I have seen in America. A number of them are of brick. About 3 miles further we passed the village of Seneca Falls — Thirteen miles from Geneva we came to Cayuga Lake, across which there is a wooden bridge a little more than a mile long. This Lake is nearly of the same size and form as that of Seneca. Six cents are charged for each foot passenger crossing here — In the afternoon we came to Auburn a large and handsome village which will be rendered important on account of the new State prison erecting here — It was considered necessary to have another one in addition to the one already in the city of N York — There is a great part of this building finished and as much to do as will take three years to finish — At present there are about 200 prisoners in it, and it is to have apartments for 2000 — If the laws are not made more severe, I believe that this State will soon require more prisons — Crimes seem to be very frequent here — This Town possesses many fine brick buildings, And I consider the Presbyterian church which is of wood, to be the handsomest building of the kind that I have seen. The land from Geneva to Auburn is more of a sandy than a gravelly nature and seems superior in quality to any that I have seen in this State. Crops are every where abundant, but there is a general outcry about the scarcity of cash — All the trading that is carried on, is wholly by barter. A person here having a little silver or Gold could find great bargains. Wheat can

be bought at half a Dollar a bushel, for ready money, and other things in proportion — I have seen a man who had great difficulty in selling excellent Lamb, at 5 cents p^{r} lb. To day we travelled about 27 miles; the sky was cloudless, and exceedingly hot — Ther. 91°

20th. This morning we set out very early, in order to take it easier in the heat of the day — I observed nothing interesting to day — We were now approaching the celebrated Salt Springs of Onondaga, where more salt is made than at any other place in America — A few miles from the Springs the ground becomes covered with small oaks, and has a sterile appearance. In the afternoon we reached the Salt works, which are distant from the Village of Onondago 4 miles — Here I was again left to myself, having determined to remain a day or two at this place — This day was fair and hot — The heat has been increasing for a few days past very much — Ther. 92 —

21st. As I remain here to day I may give a few sketches of this place — There is a small Village here named Salina, which is only a short distance to the southward of Onondago Lake — The land around the Village is very low and swampy — Between the buildings and the Lake is a flat piece of ground partially covered with water which is all salt, and which is called the Springs — I could not observe the water to rise in any particular spot — but for the space of 2 or 3 acres to look like a spot that had been covered with water during winter, but now nearly dry, and covered with all manner of rubbish and filth, sending forth a most disagreeable odour — The furnaces for making the salt, are in, and around this spot — There is communication by water between this and Ontario by which they carry the salt to Canada, and the western States — I have never been in a

more disagreeable and unhealthy place than this At this time a number of people were sick with the Fever and Ague a disease, which is always to be found here — If it were not for the Salt works I believe this would never be a village — Salt forms the only circulating medium about this part of the country instead of money, of which there is scarcely any — When a person brings any thing to be sold, the first question is, how much salt will he take — Every day there are a number of waggons from different parts of the country, to purchase salt, in exchange for flour, butcher meat &c. The price of Salt is remarkably low, being only 1/^{s} york p^{r} bushel. A Barrel of salt containing 5 bushels can at this time be purchased for 5/ (2/9 3/4 ster.) and as much for the duty — The most of the States & a considerable portion of Canada are supplied with salt from this place. Within a mile of Salina there passes three branches of the great Western Canal[36], which is to join the waters of Lake Erie with the Hudson River near Albany — The distance is above 300 miles. None of it here is nearly finished and from the great length, and nature of the country through which it passes, it is assuredly an arduous undertaking, and will require the labour of years — This day was fair & hot. Ther 92 —

22d. This morning was cloudy & there fell a few drops of rain. I did not wish to travel to day but before noon, I found that I could enjoy no satisfaction in the house where I lodged, from the number of idlers who frequented it — It must give uneasiness to any person who has any regard for Religion, to witness the general innattention to even the external duties of the Sabbath, both in the States and in Canada — Instead of preserving a tolerably decent behaviour on that day; it is commonly spent in drinking shooting, Fishing, or some such amusement, and that even by

many who consider themselves to have good moral characters — Any person newly arrived in this country could not recognise a Sabbath at all — No doubt, there are many people who behave otherwise, but they certainly are the smallest number. Being completely disgusted with this place I cleared out (to use a Yankee phrase) and went on 7 miles where I stopped at a Tavern, that was not so well supplied with people, before that I reached it there was some rain — and it showered occasionally all the afternoon — Ther. 80 —

23d. There was a remarkable alteration in the weather this morning, instead of a suffocating heat, it was disagreeably cool — I set out on the way to Sackets Harbour. This road I believe was chiefly made during the war to facilitate the transportation of Military and Naval Stores to the Harbour — For many miles it goes through swampy woods, and is formed of logs placed longitudinally across the road, this is the universal practice of this country in forming or mending the roads in moist land — Twelve miles from Salina I crossed, by ferrying, Oneida river, at a little distance to the west, from where it opens from the Lake of the same name — Very great quantities of Eels are caught in this Lake and river — The most part of the day I was enclosed among wood, the houses being few in number — The land does not seem to be worth much — I have seen farms to day that I would not take the compliments of they are so barren. Crops are greatly deficient here from want of rain, the ground is the same as if it had been burnt — Potatoes will be very scarce this winter, they are expected to be near a Dollar p^{r} bushel — This day was so cold that even when travelling I could not keep myself comfortable, It was rather cloudy, ther. 70 —

24th. This morning was clear calm and very cold, at

sunrise the Ther. was 45°. I pursued my journey, and having gone seven miles I came to Salmon river where there are a number of houses. As I came from this I met a great number of waggons loaded with men and women, going to a Methodist camp meeting near Salmon river. These meetings are common in this country, and are held for a number of days, generally in the woods — In my opinion they are much more productive of bad than good effects. However they are better adapted for this than most other countries, as they have a great tendency to increase population — This is no aspersion, that such is the case I have had abundant testimony — As the man whom I travelled with, two days from Geneva lived near my road I intended to stop a night at his house, which I reached in the afternoon — Having been pretty well treated I went to bed, but as it happened I did not enjoy much repose — Sometime before midnight, there came a number of men with lights, who ordered us all to clear out, for they were going to pull down the house — And they were as good as their word for they actually did so — They took out all the furniture and in a short time there was not one log left upon another — The delapidators were the neighbours, and for certain reasons which I do not exactly know, they were determined to have this family out of the neighbourhood, and this was the method adopted to effect it — Thus I was obliged to take my knapsack and march — I was not so fortunate as to find a shed where I might have remained till the morning. I lay down by the road side for a short time, but I soon became very cold and wet with dew, so I took the road once more, and soon came to a place where trees were burning, where I remained and smoked my pipe until day break, and then went on for Sackets Harbour — this day was fair. Ther. 76 —

NOTES

1. St. Anne de Bellevue.
2. Ottawa River.
3. Chrysler's Farm, November 12, 1813.
4. Indian name of Toronto restored at incorporation of city in 1834.
5. Now Bath; the church, still standing, is St. John's (C. of E.).
6. Carrying Place isthmus.
7. Original name of Coburg.
8. P. hirsutus (L.) Willd.
9. Scarborough Bluffs.
10. Yonge Street.
11. Holland Landing.
12. R. rhomboideus Hook., type locality.
13. Gibraltar Point Light, completed in 1809.
14. King Street.
15. St. James's Church, opened in 1807.
16. Newtown Lots.
17. Likely the Humber River, Etobicoke, Credit River.
18. Site of Battle of Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813.
19. As late as 1834, some people were calling the Niagara River the St. Lawrence.
20. Built as combined court house and jail in 1817.
21. Robert Fleming Gourlay (1778–1863), whose activities against the "Family Compact" caused him to be jailed and then banished from Upper Canada in 1819.
22. The Battle of Queenston Heights, at which Gen. Sir Isaac Brock was killed, October 13, 1812.
23. Burning spring—still there.
24. Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814.
25. Battle of Chippawa, July 5, 1814.
26. Peter Buell Porter (1773–1844), major-general of American militia in War of 1812, influential in development of Buffalo.
27. Cattaraugus Indian Reservation.
28. Born 1778, eldest of the Bonapartes, Joseph lost the throne of Spain in the Peninsular War and abdicated in 1813; he lived mainly in the United States from 1815 to 1844, the year of his death.
29. *Crawford Weekly Messenger*, est. 1805.
30. *The Western Press*, est. 1811.
31. Town founded by Harmony Society in 1805 and abandoned in 1814–1815, when the group moved to Indiana.
32. *Hamilton Recorder*, est. June 1819.
33. *Steuben Patriot*, est. 1816.
34. Keuka Lake.
35. *Penn-Yan Herald*, est. May 1818.
36. Erie Canal, completed in 1825.

ASPIDIUM GOLDIANUM

Sori subrotundi sparsi. *Indusium* unbilicatum vel uno latere dehiscens.

Aspidium *Goldianum*; frondibus ovato-oblongis glabris pinnatis, pinnis lanceolato-acuminatis pinnatifidis, laciniis oblongis spinuloso-serratis, stipite paleacco.

Hab. Near Montreal.

From one and a half to two feet in height. Allied to *Aspidium Cristatum* more than to any other species in the genus; but abundantly distinguishable by the greater breadth of the frond, which gives quite a different outline, and by the form of the pinnae, which are never *broader* at the base, but are, on the contrary *narrower* than several of the segments just above them. These segments, too, are longer and narrower, slightly falcate, and those of the lowermost pinnae are never lobed, but simply serrated at the margin. The serratures are likewise terminated by more decided, though short, spinules. The *fructifications* are central near the midrib, and this circumstance prevents the species from bearing, as it would otherwise do, no inconsiderable affinity to *A. marginale*.

Specimens of this plant, cultivated in the Botanic Garden at Glasgow, from roots which I brought from Canada, retain all the characters which I have above described.

P9-EEP-010